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(Continued.)

"Now," said I to him, "be seated," and he sat. I asked him if he would shake hands with me and my boy and make up. He was very sullen, but, at last, did so, not cheerfully, I fear, for he was not of good blood.

"Tell me," I demanded then, seeing that the triumph of calm reason had been sufficient in his case, "why did you come here, and why do you try to drive us off, who are only on a peaceful journey as pirates, seeking our fortune?"

"Pirates?" he exclaimed. "Just what I thought. What's the use my lenin' the pearl for a mile along here if anybody can come and camp and go to work, right alongside of me? If old Farmer Snider, that owns this land, hadn't gone to town I'd have the law on you. He pays my money in and getting no protection. Fishin's rotten job!"

I now perceived that we had encountered one of those half-nomad characters, a fresh water pearl fisherman, such as those who, for some years, with varying fortune, have combed the sand bars of our inland river for the fresh water mussels which sometimes, like oysters, contain valuable pearls or nacreous bits known as slugs.

"I know the law," said I. "Farmer Snider can not lease the highway of yonder river where the Sea Rover passes. But I know also the law of the wilderness. One trapper does not intrude on another who has first located his country. We will pass on to-morrow. Meanwhile, if you don't mind, we will go with you to your camp and see how you do your work. Please forget that we have had any trouble."

He looked at me oddly, evidently thinking my mind touched.

We found that we were upon a little island between two shallow arms of the stream. The camp of the pearl fisher lay at the lower end, and never have I seen or smelled so foul a place for human habitation. The one large tent served as shelter, and a rude awning sheltered the rudier table in the open air. But directly about the tent and all around it in every direction lay heaps of clam shells, most of them opened, some not yet ready for opening. I had smelled the same odor and had not learned to like it in far-off Ceylon, at the great pearl fisheries of the orient. The clammer seemed immune.

Presently he introduced to us a woman, very old, extraordinarily forbidding of visage and unspeakably profane of speech, who emerged from the tent, his mother, he said. It seemed that they made their living in this way, clamming, as they called it, all the way from Arkansas to the upper waters of the Mississippi.

I explained to Lafitte and L'Olonnois that we were now come into the neighborhood of possible treasure, and the sight of a few pearls, none of very great worth, which the old croone produced from a cracker box was enough to set off Jimmy L'Olonnois, who was all for raiding the place.

"What?" he blazed to me in an aside. "Did we not spare his life? Then the treasure should be ours."

"Wait, brother," said I. "We shall see what we shall see." And I quieted Lafitte also, who was warlike at the very sound of the word pearl. "Them's the things that take from the Spanish ships," said he. "Pearls is stolen for ladies fair. And here is pearls."

"Wait, brother," I demanded of him. For I was revolving something in my mind. I presently accosted the clammer.

"Listen," said I; "you say business is bad."

"It certainly and sorely is," asserted the old dame, fishing a black pipe out of her pocket and proceeding to feed it from another pocket.

"Well, now, let me make you a proposition," said I, taking a glance at the heap of fresh shells which lay beyond the racks of trolling lines and their twisted wire hooks, by means of which dragging apparatus the mussels are taken—shutting hard on the wire when it touches them as they lie feeding with open mouths—"you've quite a lot of shell there, now?"

"Yes, but what's in it? Button factories all shut down with a strike, and no market, and, as for pearls, they ain't none. Blame me for carryin' a crutch?"

"Not in the least. But what will you take for your shells and agree to open them for us, at wages of \$5 a day?"

"Both of us?" he demanded shrewdly. I smiled and nodded. "It's more than you average, twice over," said I, "and you say the stream is no good. Now I, too, am a student of the great law of averages, because I am or was a director in a great life insurance company. You say the law is bad."

Like other adventurers, I say that under the law of averages it is time for the luck to change."

"The luck's with you," growled the clammer. "It's right me." Unconsciously he put a finger in his swollen nose.

"What'll you gimme?" he demanded.

"One hundred dollars bonus and \$10 a day," said I promptly, and he seemed to know I would not better that.

"Who are ye?" he queried, "a buy-

"No, a pirate."

"I believe ye. I never saw such a outfit."

"Will you trade," I asked, "and how long will it take to open the lot?"

"Nigh all day, even if we set up all night and roasted." He nodded to a wide grating, and the ashes underneath showed that in this way the poor clams, like the Incas of old, were sometimes forced to give up their treasures by the persuasion of a fire under them.

"Very well," I said. "We'll call it a day. That's \$110 for you by this time tomorrow. I invoke the aid of capital and of chance, both, against you. You will very likely lose, but if so it would not be the first time the producer of wealth has lost it. But I make the wager fair, as my reason tells me I should."

"Ye're a crazy bunch, and I think ye're out of the state asylum over yonder," broke in the old woman. "But what do we care whether ye're crazy or not? Ye look like ye had the money. Jake, we'll take him up."

"All right," said Jake. "We'll go ye." "Tomorrow morning," they said I. And our party rose to return to our camp, where Lafitte greeted us with warmth, he having assigned to himself the duty of guard. And so, as Penry would say, to bed, although Lafitte and L'Olonnois scarce could sleep.

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not to deceive anybody, most of all not myself; in short, to be fair. Brother, I thank you, if you really believe I have succeeded to some extent."

We later found our clammer, the young man and his crone of a mother, up, betimes and hard at work, as evil looking a pair as ever I saw.

They had already roasted open and examined quite a heap of shells by the time we arrived, and I inquired, pleasantly, if they had found anything.

The man answered sturdily that they had not, but something made me feel suspicious, since they had made so early a start. I saw him now and then wipe his hands on his overalls, and several times noted that as he did so his middle finger projected down below the others, as though he were touching for something inside his pocket, which lay in front, the overalls being made for a carpenter, with a narrow pocket devised for carrying a folded footrule. But I could see nothing suggested in the pocket.

"That's too bad," I said pleasantly. "If looks as though I were going to lose my hundred, doesn't it? Still, the day is long."

I busied myself in watching the deft work of the two as they opened the shells started by the heat, sweeping out the feld contents and feeling in one swift motion of a thumb for any hidden secretion of the nacre. Nothing was found while I was watching, and as I did not much like the odor I drew to one side.

"I think he's holding out on us!" hissed Jean Lafitte. "Time and again I see the varlet make false moves. Let him have a cure! The eye of Jean Lafitte is upon him!"

For my own part, I cared little for anything beyond the sport in my pearl venture, but no man likes to be "done," so I joined the guard over the pearl fishing.

They showed me a few pieces they had saved, splinters and slugs of nacre, misshapen and of no luster, and sneered at the net results, worth at most not so much as the day's wages I was paying either I cared nothing for the results and smiled and nodded as I took them.

Thus the day wore on till mid-afternoon, when, such had been the zeal of the clammer, the heap of bivalves was exhausted. They stood erect, straightening their stiffened backs, and grinned as they looked at me.

"Well," said the old hag, "I reckon ye're satisfied now that we know this business better'n you do. He told ye there wasn't no pearl in this river."

"No," added her hopeful son, "an," come to think of it, how'd I ever know you had a hundred dollars? I ain't seen it yet. But we've done, so let's see it now."

I quietly opened my pocketbook and took several bills of that yellow backed denomination and selected one for him. He took it at first suspiciously, then greedily, and I saw his eyes go to my wallet. "I forgot," said I, and took out two bills of \$5 each, which I handed to him.

"By golly," said he, "no'd I forgot!" "Why did you forget about your wages?" I asked, and looked at him keenly. He turned his eyes aside.

"This fresh water pearl fishing," said I, "has many points of likeness to the ocean pearl fishing in Ceylon."

"You been there?" he queried. "And why is it like them?"

"In several ways. It is, in the first place, all a gamble. The pearl merchant buys the oysters as I bought my mussels, by the lump and as a chance, based on the law of average product. They put the oyster as you do the mussels. The small is the same, and many other things are the same. For instance, it is almost im-

possible to keep the diver from stealing pearls, just as it is hard to keep the Kamfers from stealing the diamonds they find in the mines."

I still was looking at him closely, and now I said to him mildly and in a low tone of voice: "It would be of no use. I should only beat you again, and I would rather spare your mother. You see," I added in a louder tone of voice, "the natives put pearls in their hair, between their toes, in their mouths—although they do not chew tobacco as you do. One who merely put one in the pocket of his overalls, if he wore overalls, would be called very clumsy indeed, especially if he had been seen to do it."

(To Be Continued.)

Very busy Saturdays now at Radford B. Smith's. Housekeepers are sending out that the sales every Wednesday and Saturday save them a good deal when buying sheets, sheeting, blankets, comfortable, quilts, flannels, ticking, pillows and many other things needed every day. Try this and see.—Adv.

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**Galician Physicians**  
**Urged To Come Home**  
**To War on Epidemics**

Zurich, Switzerland, Aug. 27.—Owing to the epidemics raging in Galicia, the Galician medical association, with the approval of the Austrian authorities, has issued an urgent appeal to its refugee members in Vienna and other cities to return to their homes as soon as they are permitted to do so. They are promised free railway tickets and higher remuneration than the ordinary scale, in view of the abnormal conditions. The Army Sanitary Department is making strenuous efforts to get the situation in Galicia under control.

**DO INSECTS MIGRATE**  
**LIKE BIRDS?**

It is strange indeed that insect migrations and the laws which govern them have been so neglected, for many are considered rather anomalous, almost haphazard manifestations. To be sure, many insects do not migrate, just as some birds live in an approximately fixed habitat. But, whereas such birds live as active adults, the non-migrating insects either hibernate in the mature, winged form, or pass the cold months in the egg or cystic stage. And, also, some butterfly swarms may be the aimless, unproductive outbreaks of the cotton-plutis. Nevertheless, a deeper significance is given to many reports scattered throughout scientific literature by reason of this theory concerning laws of time, direction, and route which govern the movements of an unknown number of the smaller winged creatures. Eagle Clarke's observations, while studying bird movements from the Kentish Knock lightship, that the thistle butterfly *Vanessa cardui* flew toward England from the continent against a head wind at night, opens interesting possibilities of further discovery, for this butterfly is believed by many entomologists to migrate from the mainland to the British Isles every year. Along the California coast, too, this same butterfly, the most widely distributed of all such insects, sometimes moves northward in great swarms that may come from Mexico. The green-cloaked swallow-tail, too, Papilio troilus, and the giant swallow-tail Papilio cresphontes, were seen by Savener flying in company with the "monarchs" and going south along the bird-route which extends across western Lake Erie, so that these species (with an unknown number of others) are certainly partial, or perhaps even true, migrants in some parts of this country.

Tropical observations also give evidence that the movements are more than accidental. Vast coastwise swarms annually traverse the shores of British India; small yellow butterflies also undertake great journeys there, while another species, related to our swallow-tails, is believed to travel from that country to the island of Ceylon every year. Others make periodical journeys along the Venezuelan coast and in the Amazon Valley, and, too, the curious activities seem to be quite different from aimless wanderings, and more in the nature of racial functions intimately bound up with the creature's life history.

Indeed, accumulating evidences show that the principles and laws governing the better-known bird migrations have a remarkable parallel in the annual movements of certain members of the insect world.—Howard J. Silliman in Harper's Magazine for September.

**DANGER IN SUN BATHS.**

The Journal of the American Medical Association again calls attention to the dangerous influence of prolonged exposure of the body to the bright sunlight in those who have not been accustomed to its rays. Grawitz called attention to this danger some years ago. He says that he has seen on the sand for hours in the sun has become such a popular pastime that at a single time at one of the Ham burg resorts there were 18,000 taking the sun bath one Sunday. The danger is more than the sunburn resulting, as he shows by two cases reported in detail, in which headache and symptoms of meningitis developed after the youths had been lying several hours in the sunlight, with unprotected head and no clothing but bathing trunks. Spinal puncture confirmed the assumption of meningitis and relieved the headache. The sun's rays had evidently penetrated the skull, he says, thus demonstrating that sunstroke is the consequence of direct exposure to the sun. Grawitz warned that those inclined to be nervous were particularly predisposed to injury of the nervous system from this cause, and Roman said that it is the anemic and nervously predisposed city indoor workers with whom these sun baths are most popular. A tanned and vascular skin, is said to protect better against injury from the sun's rays than the white skin of dwellers in the north. Instead of being benefited, the nervous are rendered more nervous, and when the summer is over they are thinner but otherwise in poorer condition than in the spring. No one welcomes more than the physician the "back to Nature" tendency of recent years, but it is his task to warn against excesses and abuses in the "enjoyment of Nature."

Even Rollier, the most expert and most successful adherent of heliotherapy, manages the exposures to the sunlight with extreme care, excluding areas of the body to the sunshine. Doron relates that "at Davos the direct sunlight is avoided almost as something inimical." Roman remarks that the physician will only in rare instances be able to influence this popular "sun bath sport," but he can at least raise a voice of warning of the dangers of sun baths and urge the necessity for proper dosage, some persons being more sensitive to the sun's rays than others.

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